The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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GIVE, GIVE ENOUGH
To Your
Community Chest

WHOLE NO. 1959 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1948 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 38, NO. 43

## Results Under Fair Labor Standards Act Hailed On 10th Anniversary Of Statute

Washington.—In statements marking the 10th anniversary of the Fair Labor Standards Act federal officials hailed the beneficial results of the measure and called for its strengthening to meet present-day situations.

Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin emphasized the great importance of boosting the minimum wage to 75 cents an hour, since in the light of current living costs the statutory 40-cent minimum hourly rate has become obsolete. He declared it takes about 70 cents to buy what 40 cents bought when the Wage-Hour law was enacted in 1938.

In addition to an increase in the minimum wage, Mr. Tobin called for extension of the act's coverage to other workers and for tightening of the restrictions on the use of child labor. He said:

"I am convinced that it is time to extend its benefits to some millions of workers who are now exempt from the minimum wage or overtime requirements. To do this, it will be necessary that Congress amend exemptions now applying to various employes in transportation industries and to seamen, and to employes handling or processing farm products and fish, and clarify the exemption for retail and service establishments. The goal should be to make the minimum wage provisions more generally applicable in interstate activities and to limit more definitely the overtime exemptions to correspond to present-day realities in these industries as well as to afford protection to workers.

"I also strongly urge that Congress amend the act's child labor provisions. At present, the Wage and Hour law merely prohibits the shipment or delivery for shipment in interstate commerce—by any producer, manufacturer or dealer—of goods produced in establishments in or about which 'oppressive child labor' has been employed within 30 days before removal of the goods. I recommend the outright prohibition of the employment of 'oppressive child labor' and the extension of coverage of the child labor provisions to establishments which 'engage' in interstate commerce."

Reviewing the experience under the law, William R. McComb, administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions of the Labor Department, declared the statute is a "good, sound social measure which brought to millions of low-wage earners for the first time the assurance of an almost decent minimum living standard." He added:

"A striking evaluation of the worth of this law to fair-minded employers and to the nation's workers is disclosed by the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions' inspection figures. During the 10 years the divisions have administered the Wage and Hour law and the 6 years the divisions have also administered another law supporting labor standards—the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act—more than $112,000,000 in back wages owed under either or both laws has been agreed to or ordered paid to some 3,000,000 workers by more than 150,000 employers."

## Community Chest Drives Backed By AFL Affiliates

Washington.—Headed by AFL President William Green, union officials throughout the nation are lending support to the annual Red Feather campaigns conducted by the Community Chests and Councils of America.

Mr. Green recently visited Friendship House here, a typical Red Feather service of the Washington Community Chest, to signal the opening of Community Chest fund drives in over 1,500 cities.

In opening the campaign, President Green, who is serving as vice-president of Community Chests of America, declared:

"Community Chests and Councils are performing a very valuable work and are doing a sound American job through a combination of fund raising efforts of many important voluntary health, welfare and recreational services into a single federated drive.

"I am pleased to add my personal approval to the official endorsement of the American Federation of Labor for the Community Chest campaigns in 1948. I hope and trust your program will receive proper and generous support from all Americans."

That labor is supporting the drives is apparent from reports received from all parts of the nation showing that labor representatives are giving their time and efforts in a cooperative gesture to boost the endeavor.

In Philadelphia, the American Federation of Musicians agreed to provide music free of charge at all Community Chest Red Feather functions. Previously, other AFL organizations in that city pledged their wholehearted support for the drive. An important part in labor's share of campaign activities is being taken by the AFL's Teamster's Joint Council No. 53 in Philadelphia.

Another example of labor cooperation occurred here when members of the AFL's building trades unions donated their services for a day in renovating Barney House, a recreational center supported by Washington Community Chest funds.

These instances are but 2 examples of the way in which AFL affiliates are actively supporting the Red Feather campaigns as a public service to their communities.

## Secretary Tobin, Golden, ECA Adviser Say Labor, Farmers Have Same Interest

La Crosse, Wis.—Neither the farmer nor the wage earner can be exploited if we recognize and solve our common problems together, Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin said before the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

He added that farmers have identical interests with laboring people and that they should be united in a common cause.

Tobin spoke at a panel considering the relationships between farmers and labor. Clinton S. Golden, Economic Administration labor adviser, told the same groups that "there is no basic antagonism between farm workers and industrial workers."

Both in Europe and in the United States, Golden said, industrial workers and farm workers must try to understand each others problems, so that they can work together on the solutions.

Secretary Tobin discussed the argument he said he had heard about that the farm price support program of the government is responsible for high food prices. Tobin pointed out that the farmer is not to blame for the high cost of living. He said that all of us are aware of the promise made by big business in the spring of 1946 that the prices would adjust themselves to wages when OPA price controls were abolished.

Discussing the European Recovery Program, Clinton Golden said, "In Europe, it is the worker and the farmer who must be depended upon to rebuild their countries. We are giving them a hand in the same spirit as we would help a neighbor rebuild his burned down barn."

Tobin praised the great progress of the Catholic Rural Life Conference in the last 25 years and said it has set a pattern that might well be adopted and cultivated by all of the international labor organizations in this country. "A stronger bond of unity between organizations like yours and the unions representing millions of industrial workers in this country will tend to make a better world for everyone," he remarked.

Labor Adviser Golden on the subject of the closed shop said that farmers use a variation of it in marketing quotas and in restriction of coöperative benefits to members. He said that in some segments of our "free enterprise" society, the closed shop is in good repute. He mentioned that corporations have a closed shop in the American Medical Association and that bar associations are closed shops for lawyers.

### MOLDERS UNION WINS UNION SHOP ELECTION

Philadelphia.— Members of Local 1 of the AFL's Molders and Foundry Workers Union, employes of the Dodge Steel Castings Company, voted 176 to 13 for a union shop, according to an announcement by William R. Hayes, union business agent.

## Delaney, O'Reilly Named To High AFL Staff Posts

Washington.—AFL President William Green announced two major appointments to the staff of the American Federation of Labor.

He named George Philip Delaney, International Representative of the AFL to succeed the late Francis P. Fenton. He appointed Harry O'Reilly, National Director of Organization of the AFL to succeed John Murphy who resigned to become Secretary of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union.

Mr. Delaney's first assignment in his new job will be to attend the meeting of the Governing Body of the International Labor Organization at Geneva, beginning November 22, as American Workers' Delegate. Since June 1 Mr. Delaney has served as Chief of Liaison between the headquarters of the Economic Cooperation Administration here in Washington and its labor missions abroad. He is a member of Local 215 in Washington, D. C., of the International Molders and Foundry Workers Union. He served as President of the Washington Metal Trades Council from 1935 to 1937, then on the international staff of the Molders Union until 1941, when he enlisted in the U. S. Navy. He served in the Navy for 3 years, 9 months; 29 months overseas. After receiving his discharge in 1945 Mr. Delaney accepted a trade union fellowship at Harvard University for 1 year. After completing this course he served on the staff of the Civilian Production Administration to promote the production of scarce building materials and then in the office of the Housing Expediter.

Mr. O'Reilly began his trade union career at the age of 18 with the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks in 1917. He has been a member of Chicago Milk Wagon Drivers Local No. 753 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters since 1925. He joined the AFL's organizing staff in 1937 and in 1940 was named Regional Director of Organization in the Chicago area. During the war Mr. O'Reilly served as Chairman of the Labor Division of the Regional War Labor Board in Chicago and Director of the AFL's War Savings program in that area.

## Attorney Charges That Taft-Hartley Law Jeopardized Peace In Wallpaper Industry

Chicago.—The Taft-Hartley law nearly precipitated a general strike in the wallpaper manufacturing industry, it was revealed by Joseph M. Jacobs, general counsel for the AFL's United Wall Paper Craftsmen and Workers of North America.

Prior to the signing of a new industry-wide agreement arranged under the auspices of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, earlier negotiations between union and employer representatives were broken off because of the employers' attempts to use the law to destroy the union's collective bargaining and union security positions, Jacobs charged. Faced with this attitude the union's membership voted, by a 20 to 1 margain, for a general strike, he said.

The strike was averted with the announcement that a contract had been agreed upon, covering the union's 6,000 members, which provided an 11-cent hourly wage increase, an adequate union security program, an industry-wide seniority program, and other improved working conditions.

Insistence by union negotiators for a union shop clause in the contract was backed by employes in the industry, 98 percent of whom voted for the union shop in an election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board as required by the Taft-Hartley law.

Commenting upon its experiences during the negotiations, the general executive board of the union, which has bargained on an industry-wide basis since 1937, adopting a resolution condemning the Taft-Hartley law as a threat to labor peace and as a promoter of class conflict in American industrial life. The statement said:

"Unquestionably, the Taft-Hartley law was responsible for the employers' recalcitrant anti-union position which nearly precipitated a general strike throughout the wallpaper manufacturing industry. Our new agreement does not contain some of the improvements which the employes in this industry should have received and which they would have received if it had not been for the influence of the Taft-Hartley law on our recent contract negotiations."

In the negotiations, the union was represented by an industry-wide committee headed by its national officers: E. Jameson, president; M. Firestone, secretary-treasurer; R. Heinl, general business representative; and Joseph M. Jacobs.

### FORMER AFL ARBITRATOR HEADS N. Y. BUILDERS UNIT

New York.—Peter W. Eller was elected chairman of the Board of Governors of the Building Trades Employers' Association of New York City, an organization of 1,000 leading general contractors and subcontractors.

As the second permanent chairman of the board since the BTEA was founded in 1903, Mr. Eller becomes the top administrative official in the multi-million-dollar building industry in metropolitan New York. He is a recognized authority in labor-management relations and has taken a prominent part in bringing about stabilization in the industry. From 1941 to 1944 he served as national referee for the American Federation of Labor, the only employer ever designated for the job of ruling on jurisdictional trade disputes on a national scale.

### VA PLANS DIVIDENDS FOR GI INSURANCE

New York.—The Veterans Administration is preparing to pay millions of veterans of World War II a dividend payment on their National Service Life Insurance within the year.

Harold W. Breining, Assistant Administrator for Insurance, in making known the method of payment of the dividend, said the exact amount of surplus in the NSLI fund was not known. Reliable sources estimate it between $1,000,000,000 and $2,000,000,000. Assets of the fund as of June 30 were $6,959,429,226.

### GERMAN UNION LEADERS HERE TO VISIT U. S. CITIES

New York.—The free, democratic trade unions of Berlin want trade between the Russian zones in Germany and Sweden, Holland, Belgium and Denmark halted until the blockage of Berlin is lifted by Soviet Russia.

This was the view expressed by 4 German labor union leaders from the American, British, and French zones of Germany who arrived here as guests of the AFL's Labor League for Human Rights. They will tour principal cities of the United States.

### NLRB REPORTS NEW CUT IN LARGE CASE BACKLOG

Washington.—The National Labor Relations Board reported it is gradually catching up with the heavy backlog of cases filed during the early days of the Taft-Hartley Act. It said that during August it settled 4,912 cases, 1,416 more than were filed. It was the fourth consecutive month the board was able to cut into its case load. But it still has a long way to go. On Aug. 31 more than 10,000 cases were awaiting decision.

### OVER 19,000 VETERANS NOW EMPLOYED BY NAVY

Washington.—A total of about 19,000 disabled veterans are employed throughout the Naval Establishment in the United States, according to the Department of the Navy.

On the occasion of "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week," a detailed survey was released revealing that of the total number of disabled veterans employed by the Navy, more than 2,500 are gainfully employed by Bureau of Ordnance field activities.

Rear Admiral A. G. Noble, USN, chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, states: "The importance and desirability of utilizing to the fullest extent the services of those who have been handicapped in the service of their country has been emphasized at Naval Ordnance plants and naval ammunition depots, resulting in the employment of a higher than average percentage of disabled veterans."

### MORTGAGE APPLICATIONS ON UPSWING, FHA SAYS

Washington.—Applications for mortgage insurance received by insuring offices of the Federal Housing Administration during September covered 41,588 dwelling units, the largest volume reported in any month since April, Commissioner Franklin D. Richards announced.

More than half this volume of applications, covering 22,103 units, was for financing the construction of new homes and housing projects, Mr. Richards said. He added that this also is the largest volume since April and 4,065 units above August, reversing the seasonal downward trend in new construction applications.

### AFL UNION WINS PAY BOOST

Washington.—The AFL's United Wallpaper Craftsmen and Workers of North America won an 11-cent hourly wage increase for its members under terms of an agreement announced by the Federal Mediation Service.

## AFL on the Air

**Listen each week to "Serenade for Strings," the AFL 15-minute radio show featuring an all-string orchestra under the direction of Glenn Osser and brief educational messages of interest to labor and the general public.**

**Time: Tuesday evenings at 10:45 p.m. EDT.**

**Network: American Broadcasting Co.**

**Consult your local newspapers for the exact time of the broadcast in your community.**

# NLRB Ruling Under T-H Law Regulates Conduct In Strike

### *Second Decision Puts Board's Jurisdiction Over Retail Trade*

Washington.—The Taft-Hartley law is forcing the National Labor Relations Board to prescribe rules and regulations governing the conduct of every local labor dispute, including strike activities carried on by unions.

Two recent cases decided by the NLRB bear out completely labor's predictions that the law would inject the U. S. government more and more into every aspect of labor-management affairs.

For the first time, the board declared illegal union activities on and off the picket line, and held an international CIO union, as well as its local, responsible for the illegal activities.

In another case, the NLRB, in a 3 to 2 decision, extended its jurisdiction over a group of chain retail stores operated in the State of Rhode Island.

In the strike case, the board acted unanimously except on the question of holding the international union responsible. Chairman Paul M. Herzog and John M. Houston declared they would apply the board's order to the local union only. Dissenting from the majority decision on this point, they said that although the issue "is a relatively minor one in the present case, its resolution may well establish a major landmark in the evolution of labor relations law."

The board majority held that the international evidenced its joint responsibility for the illegal acts by (1) its admissions that the strike and picketing were a joint enterprise of it and the local; (2) presence of one of its officials at "the most aggravated single incident of violence" in the case; (3) failure to disavow the illegal activities of the local union or its officials.

Specific acts which the board found illegal were: Trailing a group of non-strikers on the part of pickets and union officials; blocking of the driveway to the plant parking lot with a line of pickets; blocking egress to the plant by a group of 200 or 300 pickets and sympathizers; following a non-striker and threatening him.

The board order directs the international and the local to cease restraining and coercing employes of the company and to post notices announcing it will cease such activities. The unions also were ordered to notify the NLRB regional director within 10 days of the steps they have taken to comply. The order is enforceable in the Circuit Court of Appeals.

In the Rhode Island retail stores case, the board ruled that the company comes within the jurisdiction of the Taft-Hartley law because more than 75 percent of its goods are obtained across state lines. It ordered an election to determine a collective bargaining agent for the company's employes.

Board chairman Herzog again dissented vigorously and argued that the majority opinion was likely to lead to invoking the law "more readily" against retail trade outlets in small states than in larger ones.

He pointed out that the board had refused to assert jurisdiction over the Hom-Ond chain stores in Texas on the ground tha they were "essentially local" in character. It was found that the Hom-Ond stores received only 25 percent of their goods outside the state.

"This seems to be an unfortunate basis for distinction," Mr. Herzog said. "It is likely to lead to our exercising jurisdiction more readily over retail trades in small states than in large ones."

J. Copeland Gray, industry member of the board, joined Mr. Herzog in his dissent.

The chairman has dissented previously from majority decisions extending the board's jurisdiction and has disagreed openly on the issue with General Counsel Robert N. Denham. Mr. Denham has told Congress that in his opinion there is hardly a business in the United States exempt from the Taft-Hartley Act.

### PAINTERS GET WAGE BOOST AT THE PORT OF NEW YORK

New York.—All rates for journeymen painters at the Port of New York, covered by the collective agreement between marine painting contractors and Brotherhood of Painters, Local 679, have been increased 9.5 cents per hour.

All other terms and conditions of the collective agreement remain unchanged, officials said.

### AFL PRINTERS UNION WINS WAGE INCREASE

Elmira, N. Y.—Printers on 3 Elmira newspapers received wage increases under a contract signed by the Elmira Star-Gazette Co., Inc., and the AFL's International Typographical Union.

The contract calls for an $8-a-week wage boost retroactive to last March 1 and an additional $5 beginning next January 1. The contract runs until February 28, 1950.

The old scale was $63 days and $67 nights for a 37½-hour week.

## Green Hits Illegal Entry of Mexicans; U. S. Promises to Deport Farm Workers

Washington.—Following a strong protest from AFL President William Green, the State Department announced that it had promised Mexico it would deport several thousand Mexican farm laborers who streamed across the Texas border recently in violation of an agreement between the 2 countries.

Mr. Green, in letters to Secretary of State George C. Marshall, Attorney General Tom C. Clark, and Federal Security Administrator Oscar Ewing, charged that "employers of agricultural labor in the United States deliberately inspired a movement on the part of Mexican citizens to come to the United States to seek employment on farms."

"In so doing," Mr. Green said, "American employers apparently were aided and abetted in defying the law by certain officials of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service and the United States Employment Service."

The protest lodged by Mr. Green was based upon information received from AFL representatives in El Paso, Texas. His letter declared:

"Our reports also state that many of the Mexican citizens who crossed the international boundary were placed under technical arrest by the immigration authorities and paroled to the Employment Service representatives who then assigned them to private employment for work on farms in nearby states. This action borders on peonage and is a violation of the United States statutes against "involuntary servitude." While these illegal entries were centerd in El Paso, they extended all along the border.

"The AFL Building Trades Council in El Paso also reports that some of these illegal aliens applied for jobs in construction work at rates of pay from 40 cents to 60 cents an hour, whereas the established rate of pay is 80 cents and 90 cents an hour.

"Further, Mexican nationals allowed to enter without regard to our immigration laws did not receive medical examinations and this constitutes a menace to the health and welfare of all of our citizens. In addition there is no effort to require employers to provide sanitary quarters or to protect Mexican against exploitation and failure to pay for work done.

"The American Federation of Labor urges that all Mexican nationals who were permitted to enter illegally by the United States Immigration authorities, be apprehended and deported to Mexico. We further suggest that American citizens, whether agricultural employers or government officials, who inspired or facilitated the movement of Mexican nationals, are guilty of conspiracy to violate our immigration laws and that the guilty parties should be prosecuted to prevent recurrence of incidents."

## Retail Prices Level Off; First Time In 5 Months

Washington.—For the first time in 5 months the Bureau of Labor Statistics' monthly report on the retail prices of goods and services showed no further rise in the cost of living.

The BLS consumers' price index remained at 174.5 percent of the 1935-39 average. This was 6.5 percent higher than the figure of a year ago, 30.9 percent above that of June, 1946, and 77 percent over the August, 1939, level.

The index covers goods and services bought by moderate-income families in large cities.

Foods declined in the month by 0.6 percent, but this was offset by higher prices of other articles. Residential rents advanced 0.7 percent; housefurnishings, 0.9 percent; fuel, electricity and refrigeration, 0.4 percent; miscellaneous goods and services, 0.2 percent.

The August-September food-price decline was contrary to the usual seasonal movement. The food index dropped to 215.2 percent of the 1935-39 average. This was 5.7 percent higher than a year ago, 47.8 percent above the figure for June, 1946, and 130.2 percent above the August, 1939, level.

Primarily responsible for the drop in the month were decreases of 1.9 percent for fruits and vegetables; 1.1 percent for dairy products; 0.6 percent for meats, poultry and fish; 0.5 percent for fats and oils; 0.1 percent for cereals and bakery products. Egg prices advanced 2.9 percent, less than the usual seasonal rise; sugar and sweets rose 0.5 percent, and beverages were 0.1 percent higher.

Contraseasonal price decreases of 5.3 percent for butter and 1.7 percent for cheese more than offset higher prices for fresh and evaporated milk. Beef and veal prices averaged 1.9 percent lower than a month ago and lamb prices dropped 3.8 percent. Higher prices were reported for pork, chicken and fish.

The index of apparel prices continued to advance from mid-August to mid-September, as higher prices were reported for men's overcoats and suits, women's wool dresses and boys' wool suits and shirts. The apparel price index was 201 percent of the 1935-39 average.

In housefurnishings, prices continued to advance for bedroom furniture, electric refrigerators and washing machines.

## AFL's Teachers Union Aids U. S. Forces In Rebuilding Japan's School System

Chicago.—The AFL's American Federation of Teachers announced that 10,000 copies of the book, "Goals for American Education," by Lester Kirkendall, Floyd Reeves and Irvin Kuenzli have been printed in the Japanese language and will be widely distributed throughout Japan.

The new book, which was prepared for the Commission on Educational Reconstruction of the Teachers Union, will be used in setting up a democratic system of education in Japan, the announcement said. The book has had an unique acceptance there and is being used by the American occupation forces, by the ministry of education, and by the Japanese Teachers Union. Recently the ministry of education reprinted a chapter from the book in a professional journal distributed widely among Japanese educators.

When Mr. Kuenzli, who is national secretary of the A. F. of T., visited Japan in February and March, 1948, on a 'round-the-world trip by plane to study international educational problems, the Japanese teachers rquested permission to reprint 20,000 copies of the book which was just off the press. The occupation authorities granted permission to print 10,000 copies, an exceptionally large edition in view of the acute paper shortage in Japan.

Assisting the Japanese people in rebuilding their educational system along democratic lines is a major project of the occupation forces in Japan. To accomplish this goal the aid of the A. F. of T. is being sought in providing material for the educational reconstruction program.

### CONCILIATION SERVICE SETS UP NEW REGION

Washington.—Director Cyrus S. Ching, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, announced that a new region known as Region 4, has been set up covering the states of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and the District of Columbia.

TAFT HARTLEY
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# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
## WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
# SUPPLEMENT

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WILLIAM GREEN, President
WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1948
GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

## Denham Hits Stay of Contempt Order; Asks Circuit Court to Reverse Decision

Washington.—Continuing his crusade against the AFL's International Typographical Union, Robert N. Denham, general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board, moved to force the union into immediate compliance with a contempt-of-court order issued in Indianapolis.

Denham asked the Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago to vacate "in the public interest" its decision granting the union more time to comply with the order. Judge Luther M. Swygert of Indianapolis found the union in contempt for insisting on closed shop conditions in the newspaper industry in violation of the Taft-Hartley law. He ordered it to reimburse the government for the cost of the trial.

Mr. Denham told the Circuit Court the union's request for a stay was "frivolous" and that the union "greatly exaggerated the injury" to result if required to comply immediately.

"The only effect of the lower court's decree on existing contracts in the newspaper industry," he said, "is that the union will be required to negotiate lawful provisions to replace the specific clauses held illegal by the lower court.

"There will be no disturbance of contractual relations in regard to economic matters such as wages, hours or in regard to other provisions of the contract."

On the other hand, Mr. Denham added, employers would suffer strikes, slowdowns and other disruptions unless they acceded to union pressure and economic necessity and signed contracts in violation of the law. The Circuit Court's decision, he asserted, should be reversed immediately "in the public interest."

Mr. Denham argued that not more than seven existing contracts in the newspaper industry were affected directly in the contempt case. These, he said, would have to be renegotiated to eliminate the "unlawful" clauses discriminating against nonunion printers in employment.

The case has no "direct effect on contracts in the commercial printing industry," Mr. Denham explained.

## Charges Taft-Hartley Law Example of Fascist Process

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—Harold C. Hanover, secretary-treasurer of the New York State Federation of Labor, warned that the Taft-Hartley law set in motion "the Fascist process" in America with labor as its first victim.

Hanover's charge was made in a last-minute appeal for a large turnout of voters at the polls and was part of the vigorous political education campaign carried on by the New York Labor's League for Political Education.

"The law reduces collective bargaining," he said, "from a reality to a shadow. There can be no free collective bargaining when one of the groups is denied equality. Under the Taft-Hartley Act, labor is not free to bargain until government says so.

"On this one point alone, the law merits the condemnation of every thoughtful citizen, union or nonunion. The nation can never realize economic progress and stability without understanding and cooperation between management and labor. And this is only achieved in the American way of free collective bargaining."

Hanover's statement declared that the "serious threat to our national welfare and progress comes from men and groups who give lip service to democracy while using their influence and power to destroy it."

Characterizing these "men and groups" as "Fascist-minded," Hanover declared that "by our laziness, indifference and neglect" they are "now using the might of their economic power and pressure to retain their control" over Congress and "they have bigger and more appalling plans blue-printed for the American people."

The state AFL official asserted that because the majority of our citizenry had not bothered to vote in 1946 that the 80th Congress represented the minority of privilege and wealth.

## Workers Involved, Time Lost, In Strikes Larger In September, BLS Report Shows

Washington.—Strikes in effect during September involved more workers and caused more lost time than those in August, although the actual number of strikes declined, according to reports released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The BLS survey disclosed that 250 work stoppages began in the month as compared to 335 commencing last August. September figures, however, were higher than a year ago and above the average for the years 1935-39.

About 160,000 workers were involved in stoppages which began in September, 10,000 more than in August. A few major disputes—the deadlocked maritime and oil refinery strikes on the West Coast and the plant-guard strike which idled 25,000 Briggs Manufacturing Co. employes in Detroit—brought total idleness in September to 2,400,000 man-days, larger than for any month since May.

Including stoppages which began in previous months a total of about 450 disputes, involving 275,000 workers, were in effect during September. This compares with 525 work stoppages and 225,000 workers in August.

All known work stoppages, arising out of labor-management disputes, involving 6 or more workers and continuing as long as a full day or shift are included in reports of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Figures on "workers involved" and "man-days idle" cover all workers made idle in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not measure the indirect or secondary effects on other establishments or industries whose employes are made idle as a result of material or service shortages.

## NLRB Ruling Takes Sides With Employer Accused of 'Interference' in Union Choice

Washington.—The National Labor Relations Board, by a 3-to-2 vote, refused to set aside a union representation election on grounds of employer interference.

The decision overruled a regional director who held that the action of two officers of an employer who called in the employes individually and advised them of the employer's views was interference.

The employer was the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works in the board's St. Louis region. Its 850 employes have been represented for years by the Independent Union of Chemical Workers. The International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers, AFL, sought to represent the 19 employes in the powerhouse as a separate unit. In the election the AFL union received 8 votes and the independents 10.

The board majority said that in the General Shoe case, on which the regional director relied, the majority opinion made it clear that the board would set elections aside "only in the rare 'extreme case' where an employer's activities so far exceeded an appeal to his employes' reasoning faculties that it impaired the laboratory conditions under which board elections should be conducted."

"The oral statements which the employer's (Mallinckrodt) representatives made were temperate in content and tone, and merely restated to the employes the contentions on bargaining unit which the employer had previously addressed to the board," the majority said. "Particularly important, these statements were made to employes who, unlike those in the General Shoe case, had long been organized and accustomed to collective bargaining."

John M. Houston, dissenting, said:

"I had thought that the majority opinion in the General Shoe case made it clear that the essence of the employer's interference was contained not in what was said to the employes, but in the manner in which his anti-union sentiments were communicated to them."

James J. Reynolds, Jr., said he thought the case was subject to the General Shoe doctrine, although he dissented from the wisdom of that doctrine.

The majority was composed of Paul M. Herzog, chairman; Abe Murdock, and J. Copeland Gray.

### AVERAGE FACTORY WAGE REACHES $1.36 AN HOUR

Washington.—Production workers in America's factories earned a gross average of $1.36 an hour, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported for the mid-September period. This preliminary estimate represents a rise of 1.4 cents in a month.

Because of the moderate downturn in the average factory work week, gross weekly earnings at $54.06 did not advance beyond the August record level. The Labor Day holiday was reflected in the decline in the factory work week from 40.1 to 39.7 hours.

A substantial part of the increase in gross hourly earnings occurred in the durable goods division. The average rose from $1.43 to almost $1.45 in mid-September.

## German Union Leaders To Attend AFL Convention

Leaders of German trade unions now visiting the United States are shown above at a press conference in the AFL building. They are, from left to right: Adolf Ludwig, president of the Trade Union Federation of Rhineland Palatinate; Fritz Dahlmann, secretary of the executive board of the Industrial Union of the Mining Industry, Ruhr district; Markus Schleicher, president of the Trade Union Federation of Wuerttemberg-Baden; and Ernst Scharnowski, chief manager of the Independent Trade Union Organization in Berlin.

Washington.—Four German labor leaders representing free trade unions in the 3 western zones of Germany and the Allied sector of Berlin will be on hand when the AFL convention opens in Cincinnati on November 15 to give delegates a first-hand report on labor developments in Germany.

The group, which came to the United States under the auspices of the AFL's Free Trade Union Committee headed by Matthew Woll, AFL executive council member, is making a 6-week's tour of the nation's industrial centers where they will confer on labor problems with AFL leaders.

The German trade unionists are: Markus Schleicher, chairman of the zonal council of the trade unions in the American zone and president of the trade union federation of Wuerttemberg-Baden; Adolph Ludwig, president of the trade union federation of Rhineland-Palatinate in the French zone; Ernst Scharnowski, chief manager of the Independent Trade Union Organization (UGO) in Berlin and chief of the personnel department of the Borough of Neukolln (American sector of Berlin), and Fritz Dahlmann, secretary of the executive board of the Industrial Union of the mining industry in Bochum (Ruhr).

At a press conference here, the German spokesmen declared that labor union strength in western Germany totals 4,500,000. They predicted that prospects for the unification of the labor movement in the 3 German occupation zones are bright. They said that plans call for the creation of from 50 to 60 autonomous industrial unions into a single labor federation.

The delegation was unanimous in its praise for American aid in German recovery and for the airlift which is supplying Berlin with the necessities of life. A spokesman for the group said that the German unions would be glad to supply former German pilots to assist the airlift operation. He asserted:

"We have enough pilots willing to lay down their lives for the airlift. They would be glad to fly under American command."

## Physicians Committee Biggest Spender Of Powerful Private Interest Lobbys

Washington.—Opponents of any national health insurance plan are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to defeat proposals for a medical care system which would work for the benefit of every man, woman and child in the United States.

This was revealed by the Committee for the Nation's Health which said that lobby registration reports reveal an expenditure of $345,385 for the first 9 months of this year by the National Physicians' Committee, an organization on record as opposing, along with the American Medical Association, any move in the direction of a national health insurance scheme.

The expenditures reported placed the National Physicians' Committee at the top of the list of lobbying organizations, the highest spender in 1948. On the other hand, the Committee for the Nation's Health, which is fighting to counteract the propaganda paid for by powerful and wealthy drug manufacturers and other exponents of the status quo in medical care, has spent only $36,983 during the same period.

The Committee for the Nation's Health charged that the NPC has produced no evidence that it has in any way attempted to carry out its declared objective to devise "ways and means of providing the widest possible distribution of the most effective medical and hospital services for all the people."

Actually, the committee said, NPC is best known for its distribution of pamphlets attacking the Wagner-Murray-Dingell health insurance bills.

As evidence that the NPC, despite its protests that it is not a "lobbying organization" and that "influencing of legislation" is not its main purpose, does engage in political activity, the Committee for the Nation's Health quoted the following taken from a recent NPC pamphlet:

"It is a pressing thing this year. Before you cast your vote for any candidate for Congress, know beyond any question where he stands on compulsory health insurance, nationalized medical service. Make your decision and before you vote for any candidate for Congress, be sure where he stands on the most vital issue of compulsory health insurance."

### HIRING, SEPARATION RATES INCREASED IN AUGUST

Washington.—The hiring rate in manufacturing establishments increased in August because of the return to school of young summer workers but remained the lowest for any August since 1939, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

Reversing the usual trend at this time of the year, layoffs also rose from 10 to 12 per 1,000 employes. The increase was concentrated in a few of the hard goods industries and reflected largely the secondary effects of strikes in parts-producing plants as well as some seasonal curtailment of output. Most industries, however, continued to report relatively low lay-off rates. With increases in both quits and lay-offs, the total separation rate rose to 51 per 1,000, the highest monthly rate for nearly a year.

### NUMBER OF POLIO CASES SEEN LARGEST SINCE 1916

Washington.—Public Health Service officials said that the 1948 total of infantile paralysis cases probably will be the largest since 1916. In 1916 29,000 cases were reported and this figure never has been exceeded.

The second largest number, 25,698, occurred in 1946.

This year, to date, 22,594 cases have been reported and the polio season has not yet ended. On the same date in 1946 there were 21,662 reported cases.

### AFL CHICAGO PRINTERS RESUME CONTRACT TALKS

Chicago.—Negotiations were resumed here between Local 16 of the AFL's International Typographical Union and newspaper publishers.

The negotiations were the first in the 11-month strike since Federal Judge Luther M. Swygert on October 14 found the union guilty of civil contempt of court.

Judge Swygert found that the union had failed to abide by a previous injunction, restricting it from engaging in unfair labor practices in its dealings with newspaper publishers.

... WANTA START AN INFLATION ?

THE NON-UNION WORKER ASKS FOR A RAISE.

## IBEW Triumphs Over District 50 In NLRB Election

Syracuse, N. Y.—The AFL's International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers won a smashing victory over District 50 of the United Mine Workers of America in a collective bargaining election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board here.

In a statewide election, production and clerical workers of the Niagara Hudson System, a private utility company, chose the AFL union to represent them in negotiations with the company.

Arthur Younger, National Labor Relations Board field examiner, announced that the vote was 4,068 in favor of the AFL union and 1,913 for "no union." One hundred and fifty-two votes were challenged and 20 were voided.

The votes were cast by ballot and mail in all cities and villages where the Niagara Hudson has employes.

District 50 union, a branch of the United Mine Workers, was barred from the ballot because its leaders have refused to sign non-Communist affidavits in their fight against the Taft-Hartley law. Consequently their union was ineligible to appear on the ballot in the eyes of the NLRB.

The utility workers had to vote for the AFL union or none at all. Mr. Lewis tried to persuade the 7,200 eligible employes to vote for no union.

The 58-year-old electrical workers union petitioned the NLRB for a systemwide election when Niagara Hudson's 3 operating subsidiaries received approval for amalgamation from the state Public Service Commission. Niagara Hudson is merging all 3 companies into a firm to be known as the Buffalo Niagara Electric Company.

## Vets Job Rights Good For 3 Years

Washington.—Persons inducted into the armed forces of the United States after June 24, 1948, the effective date of the Selective Service Act of 1948, may extend their periods of active duty after serving 21 months and exercise their reemployment rights upon discharge, according to a statement by Robert K. Salyers, director of the Bureau of Veterans' Reemployment Rights.

"Although induction into the armed forces constitutes a first enlistment, Section 9 (g) (1) of the act provides for an enlistment of not more than 3 years," Mr. Salyers said. "An inductee, after serving 21 months, may without loss of reemployment rights extend his period of active duty for a maximum of 15 months, provided there is no break in the continuity of his service."

Salyers pointed out, however, that subsequent reenlistment would constitute a waiver of reemployment rights.

### CITY RECEIPTS, EXPENSES SET NEW RECORD IN '47

Washington.—Receipts and expenditures of city governments for 1947 were higher than ever before, according to reports released by the Bureau of the Census.

In 1947, the bureau said, the 397 cities in this country with 25,000 or more population collected $3,300,080,000 in revenue, spent $2,516,568,000 on current operations, and disbursed $312,888,000 on capital improvements such as streets, sewage systems, etc.

More than half the revenue came from property taxes, which accounted for $1,861,903,000. That was 6 percent more than in 1946, the bureau's report said.

Welfare costs, up 32 percent from the previous year, reached a total of $270,801,000 in 1947, the highest in 5 years. Operation costs for "every other municipal function" exceeded those of 1946.

### WHOLESALE PRICES UP; 4.6% ABOVE YEAR AGO

Washington.—Average primary market prices advanced 0.3 percent during the week ended October 23, 1948, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The bureau's comprehensive index increased to 165.3 percent of the 1926 average as the result of moderate price increases for fresh meats and livestock. It was 2 percent below the level of four weeks ago but 4.6 percent above the corresponding week of a year ago.

## AFL on the Air

**Listen each week to "Serenade for Strings," the AFL 15-minute radio show featuring an all-string orchestra under the direction of Glenn Osser and brief educational messages of interest to labor and the general public.**

**Time: Tuesday evenings at 10:45 p.m. EDT.**

**Network: American Broadcasting Co.**

**Consult your local newspapers for the exact time of the broadcast in your community.**

## British Plan Withdrawal From WFTU; TUC Calls For Drive on Communists

London.—The groundwork was laid here for the long-awaited withdrawal of the British Trades Union Congress from the Soviet-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions.

Urging an accelerated drive by British unions to eliminate Communist influence wherever it may be found, the general council of the TUC also called upon the WFTU to cease its activities or face a walkout by the British labor organization.

Since it is considered very unlikely that Communist representatives in the WFTU will agree to the British demands, the TUC will probably withdraw early next year following the January meeting of the WFTU's executive bureau.

The general council's anti-Communist declaration was adopted with only two or three dissenting votes, one of which was presumably cast by the only known Communist on the council. It will be communicated to the executive committee of all 108 unions affiliated with the TUC.

The statement had been expected since the Communist infiltration recently became the cause of widespread and open dispute in union ranks. It was cast in the form of an appeal because the council has no disciplinary authority over the unions. It can only make recommendations to them.

The TUC council charged that the British Communist party, in concert with Communists elsewhere, was carrying out disruptive activities in "servile obedience" to the Communist Information Bureau.

"It is clear," the statement said, "that the Communist parties are doing their utmost to wreck the entire recovery effects of Britain and of the European countries that have accepted American aid."

Urging local union officers and members to counteract Communist influences and to open the eyes of the working people to Communist activities, the statement continued:

"The attempts to wreck economic recovery in the interests of a foreign power whose policy is to keep the world divided, impoverished and in constant dread of a third world war must be condemned and repudiated by all trade unionists."

This decision on policy was reached after a member of the council had raised a specific charge of Communist interference. The further decision on the WFTU was taken after TUC representatives had reported that the World Federation's policy was becoming increasingly influenced by Communist policy, and that cooperation between the World Federation and the international trade union secretariats was impossible.

## Building Trades Pay Rates Trail Zooming Living Costs

Washington.—Despite scattered wage boosts won by building trades workers since July 1, hourly wage rates for union workers continue to lag behind the rise in the cost of living, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The BLS quarterly survey of wage rates in 7 key building trades in 77 cities revealed that pay rates advanced about 2 percent in the last quarter as a result of increases to approximately one-fifth of the organized workers included in the study.

Hourly wage rates have advanced about 64 percent between June, 1939, the base date for the BLS wage index, and October 1, 1948, the report said. However, between June, 1939, and September, 1948, the BLS consumers' price index jumped 77 percent.

Carpenters, painters, and building laborers accounted for the vast majority of workers who gained wage boosts since July 1, the BLS declared.

Estimated increases in union rates from July 1, 1948, and rate levels for October 1, 1948, in 77 cities are shown below. The average rates include the increases in each of the 7 trades averaged over all union workers in each trade in 77 cities.

| | Amount of Increase July 1 to Oct. 1, 1948 | | Rate Levels Oct. 1, 1948 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (Percent) | (Cents per hour) | Low | Avg. | High |
| Bricklayers | 2.2 | 6 | $2.00 | $2.73 | $3.25 |
| Carpenters | 1.1 | 2 | 1.50 | 2.21 | 2.90 |
| Electricians | 1.7 | 4 | 1.75 | 2.34 | 2.75 |
| Painters | 2.8 | 6 | 1.38 | 2.13 | 2.50 |
| Plasterers | 3.3 | 8 | 1.83 | 2.53 | 3.20 |
| Plumbers | 1.5 | 4 | 1.75 | 2.48 | 3.00 |
| Building laborers | 1.8 | 2 | .75 | 1.39 | 2.13 |

## Textile Wages, Production Inadequate To Meet World Needs, ILO Report Finds

Geneva.—Wages in the world's textile mills must be raised if the industry is to fill its manpower needs, according to a report prepared for the second session of the International Labor Organization's Textiles Committee which opened at ILO headquarters here.

One hundred and twenty government, worker and employer representatives are attending the meeting. They come from 18 of the world's chief textile-producing countries.

The session which is expected to last 10 days was opened by Jef Rens, assistant director-general of the ILO. Miss J. G. Stemberg of The Netherlands is the committee's chairman. On Thursday, the ILO's director-general, David A. Morse, will address the committee.

The study on employment conditions was compiled by the International Labor Office, permanent secretariat of the ILO. It said certain conditions in the industry should be improved "to place it on an equal footing with other sectors of production so that it can compete unhandicapped in the labor market."

Another report prepared for the committee, the general report, warned that present output is inadequate to fill the world's needs, despite increased production in North and South America and the Near and Middle East.

It blamed drastic wartime curtailment of production in Japan and Germany, plus losses elsewhere in Europe and Asia, for this situation.

In addition to improved conditions in the industry, the report on employment problems stressed two other basic elements of a sound recruiting program. They were: Effective use of available manpower in the country itself or from abroad, plus improved methods of engaging workers.

It added: "The adjustment of wage levels would appear to be imperative, though at the same time the need must be borne in mind to consider certain factors such as the resulting increase in production costs, which, if carried beyond a certain limit, might reduce both domestic demand and export possibilities and so lead to a curtailment in production."

The report on employment problems, one of three items on the committee's agenda, urges improved working conditions by elimination of the dangers to health and safety and by rationalization of workshop layouts for employe welfare.

Another item, the report on industrial relations, urged the strengthening and extension of organizations of employers and employes and stressed the need for plant committees in all textile establishments.

It declared: "From the point of view of increasing the productive effort, the importance of insuring the workers' collaboration is as great as the necessity to keep the physical working conditions of his environment at a satisfactory level."

The general report noted an increasing trend throughout the world toward the association and collaboration of governments, employers and workers in the planning, administration and supervision of welfare facilities. It said that the necessity for action on an international scale must be stressed if improvements in welfare facilities were to be lasting.

The report also said: "It is evident that very large increases in real income would be necessary to bring the consumption in chronic deficit areas up to satisfactory levels and that, in order to meet the requirements of the world for adequate clothing, the productive capacity of the industry would have to be enormously increased.

"What merits consideration is how far the industry in the contracted areas can be restored without creating excess capacity at a later stage, and whether the industry in areas of wartime expansion will be able to remain at its higher level or even expand, or whether it will have to contract when international trade resumes a more normal course."

### MEAT PACKERS UNION WINS RAISE FOR 10,000

Chicago.—About 10,000 AFL Amalgamated Meat Packers and Butcher Workmen will receive a wage increase of 4 cents an hour under an agreement with 14 independent packers, it was announced here.

Earl W. Jimerson, union president, said that the increase raised minimum wages for workers in metropolitan areas to $1.15 hourly. It follows the pattern of agreements reached recently with major packers.

### BUSINESS LEADER SAYS FOOD PRICES PAST PEAK

Chicago.—Franklin J. Lunding, president of the Jewel Tea Company, told executives of 300 retail chain stores attending the 15th convention of the National Association of Food Chains:

"Food prices have passed their peak. There is no doubt about a downward trend.

"Tremendous production of the country's farms will continue to have its influence on lower prices, despite higher operating costs of business."